THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. However, no specific complaint has been received in this regard. All programmes transmitted/retransmitted through cable network are required to adhere to the provisions of the Programme Code prescribed under the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and Rules framed thereunder. Programme Code, *inter alia*, prescribes that no programme should be carried in the cable service which encourages superstition or blind belief.

Under Section 20 the Cable Act, the Central Government has constituted an Inter-Ministerial Committee to look into the violation of the Programme Code. On the recommendations of the Committee, appropriate action is taken against the TV channels. This is a continuous process.

As regards Doordarshan, Doordarshan has informed that none of its channels telecast programmes of this nature.

Optical Disc Law

1843. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are thinking of enacting an Optical Disc Law;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof; and

(c) what are the other measures, apart from Optical Disc Law, that Government are taking to reduce the menace of video piracy?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) The Government has received a proposal to enact an Optical Disc Law and are in consultation with related Departments and the stakeholders regarding the same.

(c) The Copyright Act, 1957, which falls under the purview of the Ministry of Human Resource Development provides the legal basis for the subsistence of copyright in cinematograph films and music. The responsibility for dealing with offences under the Copyright Act rests with

the police authorities of the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations. Copyright Enforcement cells have been set up in most States/UT Administrations headed by a senior police officer to deal with such offences.

The Copyright Act is amended from time to time to keep it in consonance with International Copyright Law.

The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has taken several initiatives to mitigate piracy of films as follows:

(i) The Indian Institute of Mass Communications has been entrusted with the task of formulating appropriate training modules for police officers regarding anti-piracy work;

(ii) This Ministry had brought film producers, multi-service operators and cable operators together, and they had jointly resolved not to exhibit films without valid permission from the Copyright holders.

(iii) The Cable Television Networks Regulation Act was amended in 2000, enabling the Government to prohibit a Cable operator from transmitting or re-transmitting any programme or channel for which he has not been granted a licence by the Copyright holder.

(iv) High rates of entertainment tax is seen as providing encouragement to piracy. Recommendation made by the Committee for development of the entertainment sector, a Sub-Committee of the State Information Ministers' Conference, to fix a realistic ceiling level for entertainment tax to be imposed by the State Governments at 60%, met with good response from several States. The Committee has further recommended that the rate could be further lowered to a ceiling of 45%.

(v) In its last meeting, the Committee also recommended appointment of senior police officers in States to work in co-ordination with the entertainment industry, as nodal officers.

(vi) During the Budget of 2003-04, audio CDs were exempted from excise duty to do away with the price advantage available to pirated CDs.

(vii) The Public Service Broadcasting Trust has been entrusted with the task of making a film on piracy.

Expansion of DD network in NER

1844. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Delhi Doordarshan plans to expand network in the North-Eastern States;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether such a project is also proposed to be launched in the backward tribal areas of Orissa and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) Prasar Bharati has informed that Doordarshan's network in the North-East region presently includes, 12 studio centres and 134 transmitters (24 HPTs, 38 LPTs, 72 VLPTs) which are functioning in the region. Satellite uplinks are also available at all the capital stations. In addition, an LPT has been installed at Satrasal in Assam and another is being installed in Ambassa in Tripura.

(c) Doordarshan presently has 2 studios and 61 transmitters (5 HPTs, 42 LPTs, 14 VLPTs) functioning in the tribal districts of Orissa. Another LPT has also been set up at Bahalda in the tribal districts of Mayurbhanj. TV coverage in the uncovered areas of the country is now envisaged to be provided through satellite transmission in Ku-Band. Ku-Band signals can be received anywhere in the country, except Andaman & Nicobar Islands, through a small sized dish receive system. These signals can also be received in Orissa.

Uplinking system to T.V. channels

1845. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to switch off uplinking system to a number of T.V. channels;